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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: 3/4/02 TIME: _____
TO: Michael Brown FAX NO. 703-872-9302
RE: 09/729,888
FROM: Linda Gould c: James Copelan
TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED _____ (including this cover sheet)
DOCUMENTS: 1. LETTER
2. INFORMAL REPLY
3. _____
COMMENTS: _____

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4 March 2002

Mr. Michael A. Brown
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

By Facsimile (703) 872-9302

Re: **Informal Response**

Application Number:

09/729,888

Filing Date:

12/4/2000

Applicant:

James B. Copelan

Examiner:

Michael A. Brown

Dear Mr. Brown:

I appreciated having the opportunity to speak with you last week concerning the above-referenced patent application. I failed to ask you whether you would like me to prepare a record of our telephone conference. Please let me know if you would like me to do this.

As we discussed, I have drafted a Reply to the Office Action dated December 21, 2001. That Reply accompanies this letter. The Reply is accompanied by and references a clean copy of the amended claims and a marked up version of the amended claims, which also accompany this letter.

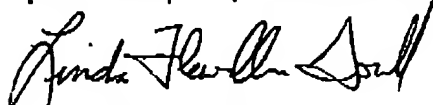
I will call you next week to schedule a time to talk to you regarding this informal response. It is my hope that I can finalize the Reply and submit it formally, together with new drawings, in the next few weeks.

Thank you for your continuing help in this matter.

Sincerely,

GOULD & WHITLEY

a partnership of professional corporations



Linda Flewellen Gould

\LFG

Encl.

c: James Copelan